



CAPITOL COMMENTS

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Dear Friend,

This week we had primaries for both parties. New faces will be arriving at the start of the 86th Legislative Session, and I look forward to working with them. In Austin, we will continue to conduct interim hearings to delve into issues affecting the state so they can be addressed next session, as well as address constituent issues and meet with stakeholders in the district.

We are proud to report that since taking office in January 2013, my office has sent 8,000 pieces of correspondence to constituents in response to questions and concerns. Not only do we read each and every word you send to us, we also take great care to respond personally to each note, letter, email, fax, phone call, or social media private message. Each one gets a well-researched and honest response, no matter the issue. It is our honor to serve you in this way.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

Ron Simmons
State Representative
House District 65

CAPITOL NEWS

TXDOT Sunset Bill

The House Committee on Transportation met twice in the month of February to monitor and discuss our State's ongoing transportation needs and activities, as well as Texas' rebuilding and repairing of critical transportation infrastructure in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Senate Bill 312, which authorizes continued operations of TxDOT, requires TxDOT to continue development of performance-based funding allocation and project selection process – a process I was proud to support as the Author of House Bill 20 in 2015. Additionally, SB 312 directs TxDOT to implement a system to allow pay-by-mail toll customers to opt-in to e-mail invoices and to cap maximum penalties for late payment at \$48/year. I look forward to working with my legislative colleagues to ensure that our State's transportation needs are adequately addressed.

Hurricane Harvey

I continue to be utterly amazed by the massive impact Hurricane Harvey had on the State and the incredible response of Texans from Beaumont to El Paso. Throughout the hurricane, over 500 roads and 4,300 bridges were closed due to flooding or debris and required some level of repair following the event. The total cost to repair our State's highways and bridges alone total approximately \$110 million. We will continue to work with federal, state and local officials to ensure that these roads and bridges meet the needs of our State. Furthermore, I look forward to helping address infrastructure projects that help reduce the impact of flooding in similar events moving forward.

Technology in Transportation

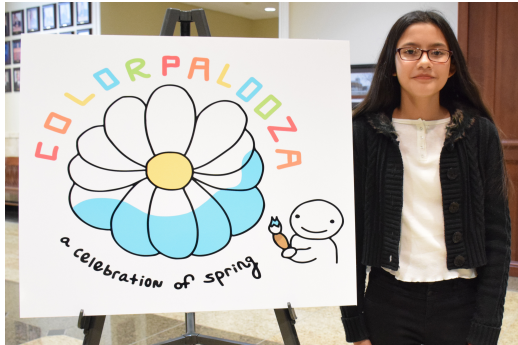
The Transportation Committee also met and received testimony on emerging technology that will affect the transportation of people and goods in the near future. We discussed the implications of increased fuel efficiency in gas powered vehicles and the increase in use of electric vehicles. We discussed the gains in roadway safety and the likely decrease in traffic wait times that autonomous vehicles could potentially bring to our roads. Technology has plenty to offer by means of improving Texas' highways and our cities' streets. While much of this technology has yet to deploy, it is important to continue to plan for its arrival while fostering an environment for its development. I am excited to see what the future has in store and to work with my Legislative colleagues and stakeholders in bringing Texas Transportation into the future. If you have any thoughts, concerns, or comments on the future of transportation and technology's role in that future, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff!

DISTRICT NEWS

**LHS Freshman Designs Logo for
Lewisville ColorPalooza**

**Carrollton Fire Rescue Receives 2017
Lone Star Achievement Award**

Marlene Rodriguez from the LHS Harmon Campus has created this year's winning logo for the ColorPalooza: A Celebration of Spring festival. Rodriguez's logo was unveiled at last month's at the City Council meeting. It features a person painting a flower, with multi-color block type letters for the ColorPalooza name. ColorPalooza: A Celebration of Spring will be held on Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in and around Wayne Ferguson Plaza, 150 W. Church Street. This family-friendly event features a wide variety of exhibits and interactive events with a "spring feel."



Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Superintendent Retires

When Bobby Burns graduated college, he immediately jumped into education, a field he said he felt called to do. Thirty-nine years later, Burns is retiring from the field and stepping down as Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD's superintendent, effective July 1. Burns wore many hats during his time at the district. He started out as a teacher and coach before serving as assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent for administration and personnel before finally landing the position of superintendent. I appreciate his service to our children and wish him all the best in his retirement!



The Carrollton Fire Rescue and the Addison, Coppell and Farmers Branch Fire Departments have joined forces and implemented several regional programs to improve the overall service delivery to all of their jurisdictions. The Texas Fire Chiefs Association jointly awarded the four departments the 2017 Lone Star Achievement Award for their initiatives on Monday. The award is given for implementing an innovative and progressive program that enhances a community's fire and life safety services delivery.



Carrollton to Host Annual Spring Campout

The Carrollton Spring Family Campout will be held at R.E. Good Soccer Complex (2355 Sandy Lake Road) at 5 p.m. on April 7- 9:30 a.m. April 8. Activities include corn hole, ladder golf and a rock painting activity. Bikes, scooters, skates (non-motorized only) and dogs on a leash are welcome. Dinner will be provided, as well as a bonfire and a screening of "Hook" at sunset. Breakfast will be provided in the morning as everyone breaks camp. Campsites must be clear by 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. Participants must bring their own camping equipment. Registration is required. Onsite registration is available from 5 p.m. until dark. The cost is \$7 per camper.



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